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DR. NORTH'S RETROSPECT OF MEDICAL PRACTICE AT SARATOGA.

[Concluded from page 282.]

CASE XVI. *Chronic Gastro-enteritis.—July* 24, 1841. Miss M. S., New York State. Age 26. Began to be dyspeptic last fall. Has had bilious attacks for two or three years. Constant burning in throat, stomach or bowels. Cannot bear tonics. All cathartics irritate. No medicines useful. Tongue furred. Appetite poor. Diet particular and simple. The heat, which had been seated in the stomach and throat, left these and settled in the bowels three months since. This a source of constant wretchedness. Pulse 116, very strong and small. Has been drinking the waters here without medical advice two weeks, to cure dyspepsia! The system, in self-defence from the tonics, has instituted a cholera morbus, accompanied by symptoms of general irritation, headache, &c.

By cool baths, effervescing draughts, saline cathartics, and relinquishing all attempts to get strength from food while the first passages were in this condition, she rapidly recovered her former measure of health; and left with earnest persuasions to adopt a prolonged course of unirritating food and medicines till all troubles from her misnamed dyspepsia had subsided.

CASE XVII. *Neuralgic Heat of Stomach and Bowels, simulating Inflammation, preceded by Dropsy.—July* 20, 1841. Mrs. W. B. A., Otsego County, N. York. Age 34. Very spare habit. Had a long sickness six years since, after abortion. Severe uterine hemorrhage for three months. This succeeded by dropsy of the peritoneum. Tapped twice. Her emaciation became extreme. Had no command of her limbs. In one and a half year nearly recovered from the dropsy. Has had a child since and nursed it on one breast. Year ago last March had palpitation after eating or exercise. Had a succession of colds. Has darting pains through left side of thorax and occasional stitches. Since April last mostly confined to bed. Color and odor of fæces very unnatural. Much tenacious mucus. Since then has confined her diet to bread and water to remove a most annoying *burning in stomach, pain of side and shoulders. Her bowels also very hot.* Stiffness of limbs. Obstinate costiveness. Pulse 64 and soft. Weight 75 pounds. *Directions.*—Bath every second day at 100 deg. for ten minutes. Four tumblers

Congress water in the morning and two before dinner and supper. R. Creosote, gtt. xl.; gum Arabic, grs. xl. M. Ft. pil. xx. Take one after each meal. The diet to include beef-steak, roast beef, or other tender stimulating meat twice daily at least, with a free use of cayenne pepper and mustard.

26.—Tongue better. The baths very grateful. Has literally complied with directions as to diet. Expecting to be burnt up by the pepper, she was astonished to find an immediate sensation of comfort in the stomach. Her parched mouth became moist within the first twenty-four hours. The sense of hunger less mondacious. Countenance already improved. A more grateful and healthy feeling of the skin. Continue the course without alteration.

August 4.—Takes now twelve tumblers of Congress water in the course of each day. Yet scarcely cathartic. Pulse 60, small and becoming hard. Omit the creosote and hot baths. Substitute a cold shower daily of mineral water, commencing with half a pailfull and not exceeding twice that quantity. Continue the rest.

16.—Leaves to-morrow. Is "well." Has eaten meat twice daily with the condiments. Alvine evacuations natural. Has gained 9 pounds flesh. Has taken eleven cold showers, invariably followed by a glow.

June 23, 1842.—A friend of Mrs. A. calls to say that she has been perfectly well since last summer. Has gained much flesh. Continues fresh beef and cayenne pepper.

Remarks.—The last two cases will justly admit of a brief comparison. The annoyance from the intense heat in the stomach and bowels was nearly equal in both cases. Yet the first was an instance of genuine entonic, sthenic action, needing a rigidly abstemious regimen, and antiphlogistic medicines. The heat of the second was merely a sensation—a genuine product of excessive nervous sensibility, as truly so as any common neuralgia, demanding the most generous and warming diet and tonic and stimulating medicines. The cases of morbid heat, resulting from deranged functions of the nervous system, are very numerous at the Springs within two or three years; and as the heat, whether occurring externally or internally, is a mere sensation, resulting from morbid sensibility without any augmentation of positive heat, the discrimination with a view to the treatment is of the utmost importance. For the want of a better name I have denominated the latter affection *neuralgic heat* of stomach, lungs, &c. In the diagnosis of these two disorders, whatever others may say of the fallacy of the pulse, to me it has been the pole star. And I do most positively believe that, if any practitioner of ordinary tact and discrimination, will carefully place his fingers on the artery and earnestly and without any preconceived bias, interrogate its movements and character, at the same time making those allowances for previous bodily motion, age, sex, timidity, position, &c., which are within the comprehension of any man of plain common sense, he will seldom fail to decide correctly whether the diathesis be sthenic or asthenic.

If this be done aright, the general course is plain. If he attempts to cure the asthenic patient he will carefully avoid venesection, saline ca-

thartics, and, in my humble opinion, calomel too, as also bread and water diet; and will adopt a course of stimulating medicines and diet, to substitute real, healthy heat and action for the morbid, deceptive imitation. It is quite possible that two drops of creosote three or four times a day may have some peculiar benefit in removing this nervous malady; as, in some two or three instances, among our own inhabitants, I have relied almost exclusively on this with very satisfactory results. The injury done by an opposite course is truly deplorable. Twenty-five years ago I was, when in country practice, neighbor to an ardent young medical brother who had just come, flushed with his confidence of success, from one of our medical institutions where they were taught that the lancet was *instar omnium medicinarum* in the removal of disease. His flaming and unbounded confidence in the remedy he held in his hand, joined to a tolerable head and good heart, procured for the young aspirant a wide circle of practice at once. At that time the doctrine of *liver complaints* was nearly at its height, and their cure was the high road to eminence and fame, both to the author, professor and private practitioner. It was the practice of this friend to use the lancet for all local pains and morbid sensations of heat; and within two years he had, to my certain knowlege, scores of patients, both male and female, who had been reduced to the greatest feebleness, pallor and functional aberration, conjoined with fixed pain generally in the right side of the abdomen. Dysmenorrhœa, morbid heat of bladder, and especially fluor albus, were constantly demanding his attention.

These disorders would now be called and treated, by four fifths of our practitioners, as neuralgia of the liver, uterus, kidneys, bladder, stomach, lungs or head. From the very advantageous post of observation I am destined to occupy on their professional proceedings, I can aver that they have in a great majority of instances thrown away the reducing plan of treatment. Let me humbly suggest, however, whether it would not be preferable, when they have fully decided that they are to treat a case of atonic neuralgia, that they should try a few prescriptions without any use of calomel or blue pills. In observing the progress of some half dozen of these cases, for a year or two, their own good sense will decide which class of patients are most happily surmounting disease and acquiring constitutional powers. I cannot withhold the additional suggestion, also, that in all such maladies, accompanied with atonic pain or heat, they should make a daily use for ten minutes of a very hot bath containing a liberal supply of muriate of soda. Temporary faintness or profuse sweating can form no objection to the measure. A moment's reflection on the magical effects of very hot fomentations in case of calculus, stone in the urethra, gall-stones, cramp of stomach, &c., cannot but recommend a more general adoption of the baths in question.

Case XVIII. *Rheumatism. Prolonged Hot Bath.—June* 13, 1841. K. M., New Hampshire. Age 44. Farmer. Been ill ten years. Labored till within a year. Some labor this spring. Rheumatism commenced in the left hip. Gradually extended down the whole limb. Confined. Within four months a pain commenced in the left side of face near

antrum highmorianum. Permanent. Muscles of left limb contracted occasionally. Tongue furred. Sanguine temperament. Florid. Appetite poor. Flatulent. Pain in stomach. Leg constantly painful. Pulse 73, full, soft. *Directions.*—Mineral bath daily for one hour, at 101 deg., keeping up the temperature. Five tumblers Iodine water each morning, and sulphate of magnesia sufficient to procure thorough dejections.

16.—Tongue better. Pulse 68, soft. Yet a steady, constant pain through the left thigh and leg. *Directions.*—Dry cups to sacrum and hips. Continue baths one hour daily, and water internally.

August 20.—After some more time spent in the above course, Mr. M. went home. His neighbor, Mr. W. this day reports him at work, much satisfied with his visit to Saratoga.

Case XIX. *Intestinal Hemorrhage. Hyperæmia. Internal Heat. Generally diseased Action.—July* 27, 1841. Miss B. C., Massachusetts. Age, say 32. Very pale. Leuco-phlegmatic aspect. Habit full. Been under the care of Dr. I. 15 years, and called "liver complaint." Soreness at pit of stomach. Pressure so painful wears dress loose. Lower extremities very weak. Generally feeble. Passes blood both liquid and coagulated from bowels. Color various. This the case the last seven years. Worse the last year. Dr. I. thinks the blood a secretion. Motion of body produces sense of tender, ulcerated surfaces rubbed together. General fulness of adipose tissue resembling anasarca. Great heat of head and loss of appetite before hemorrhage. These relieved by the occurrence last mentioned. Pulse 76 and hard. *Directions.*—Spare, vegetable diet. Two tumblers Congress water and Epsom salts to produce free catharsis each morning. None else through the day. Bath three quarters of an hour at 80 deg.—or so cold as to leave the body permanently cool afterwards. Repeat every second day.

29.—Pulse quick and softer. Her hemorrhoids, which she has had for years, are aggravated by the water and salts. Go on as before.

August 4.—Pulse 90 and softer. Takes baths at 78 deg. Leave her very cool.

22.—Is sure the cool baths are beneficial. Always leave her better. The last one as low as 63 deg. Chilly after. Abated the morbid internal heat with which she has long been troubled. Pulse 86 and hard. Appetite much improved. Countenance changed to a more healthy color and expression. Can eat meat. Great debility her worst evil. Has had one periodical illness. Natural. Is now taking seven tumblers of Congress water each morning.

26.—Return of internal burning in throat, mouth, face and stomach. Also, in the middle of sternum. Pain between shoulders. Pulse 84, hard, inflammatory. *Directions.*—Bleed ten ounces. Color florid. Substitute four tumblers Iodine Spring with ʒ j. crem. tart. in each, in the morning only. Spare diet. Frigid bath 2d day.

September 6.—Is rapidly improving. Ten weeks since any hemorrhage. Is every way better, and leaves here soon, much less disposed to quarrel with her family physician than soon after her arrival. She will

probably find at home, what multitudes find, that the restorative process which has been commenced here will continue long after leaving.

This young lady returned August 1, 1842, and had been much improved through the winter. She had the discretion to concur with her excellent physician that so multiplex a disease of fifteen years' standing required a longer medication than one short visit to the Springs. Internal heat seemed now her greatest trouble among many. By a daily use of tepid showers, tartarized Congress water in the morning, antimonial wine at night, and vegetable diet, she left after four weeks with as decided and rapid amendment as in 1841. Another summer may yet be necessary to her final and complete restoration.

Case XX. *Paroxysms of Swimming in Head. Passive Dilatation of Heart. Great Nervousness and Dyspepsia.—September* 16, 1841. Mrs. L. L., Connecticut. Age 54. Sickly for eighteen years. Confined six months then with dropsy. Never well since. Has been losing her hearing twenty-three years. Now very deaf. Anomalous affection of the head. Last January resembled apoplexy. Was bled, although her physician was usually of the opinion that bleeding was inadmissible. Since January has frequent fits of a sense of sailing in her head, always in the same direction. Is never wholly devoid of consciousness in this singular condition. During three weeks' confinement at that time her pulse intermitted, and there was a tremulous sensation of the heart. Impulse of heart heard all over the thorax. Chest sonorous on percussion except above liver. Lies only on right side, with head high. On the left side cough and dyspnœa. For eighteen years has had nervous headache once a month. Now better. Yet now it is acutely painful and confined exactly to left half of the head. The right side of head is "as well as her hand." The swimming turns always accompanied by short breath. Digestion tolerable if particular in diet. *Directions.*—Bath ten minutes every forenoon at 100 deg. Three tumblers Congress each morning, and one and a half of Putnam's Spring before dinner and tea.

18.—The bath very agreeable. Warm all day after. Bowels gently open. Sleeps well. Pulse 72 and very feeble. *Directions.*—Increase temperature of bath daily till uncomfortable. Continue the rest.

21.—Pain, looseness of bowels and nausea yesterday. Attributes it to warm bread used daily. Go on.

24.—Irritation of bowels continues. Probably the effect of Congress water, as the most delicate cathartics ruffle her. R. Tinct. rhei and sennæ, ʒ j.; syr. rhei, ʒ j. Misce. Dose half ounce before each meal and bed-time, each portion containing twenty grains carb. soda and one drachm lemon juice.

28.—The effervescing cordial soon restored her stomach and bowels to tone, and she is now quite hungry and happy. Is now taking three tumblers Congress in the morning, and the cordial doses during rest of day and the hot baths.

Remarks.—It is much to the credit of the Connecticut physicians, and she consulted many in her protracted sufferings, that they concurred

without exception in the opinion that her very anomalous and perplexing symptoms resulted from an anemic condition of the brain. The pulse was indeed so evanescent that it manifested, without a doubt, the feeble systole of the left ventricle, and auscultation demonstrated its thin and dilated parietes. It was these circumstances that led to a bold application of hot baths, cordials and tonics, notwithstanding the startling premonitions of cerebral apoplexy. It admits of little doubt that her curious turns of sailing were the result of a real want of decarbonized blood in the brain through the enfeebled condition of the forcing pump at the centre. And if her life is prolonged it must be through the assiduous husbanding of her powers, and the administration of supporting, unirritating diet and medicines.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE SOUTH WEST.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.—Continued from page 264.]

In my previous letter reference was made to the character of the profession, and some of the causes noticed that lowered its standing and lessened its influence. Another yet to be considered is the entire want of medical organization among the members. So far as I know, in some States there is no State or county medical society in existence. One physician does not know nor has he an opportunity of ascertaining the principles or the success of his neighboring physician's practice; consequently, when consultations are called, great and irreconcilable differences present themselves, perhaps to the injury of the patient. And again, if some plan was adopted by which those just commencing their career could avail themselves of the experience of their seniors, great benefit would result to the profession generally. But the value and importance of medical societies, when properly organized and conducted, is well known to the readers of the Journal. In this county there are twelve or fifteen practising physicians, and exceeding half that number of diplomaed physicians that have withdrawn from, or decline, practice, and who may be called so many supernumeraries. With this large corps of medical men, no society has ever existed, nor have any efforts been put forth to elevate the standard of the profession, regulate its charges, or establish any rules of professional courtesy and etiquette.

It appears that we are too often looked upon as necessary evils rather than benefactors. This impression arises from the fact that the acquisition of wealth has seemed to be almost the *summum bonum* of the practitioner's ambition; and this is still the case in many instances, as is evidenced by the fact of so many withdrawing from the active duties of the profession the moment they have acquired the means to enable them to do so,

I have alluded to the license given to quackery, and the fine field open for its reception. In the years 1835, 6, and 7, Thomsonianism took a strong hold and was extensively practised. Since that period it has gradually declined, until we seldom hear it mentioned. It is now but seldom

used, though many of its former friends keep a little lobelia, No. 6, 3d preparation, &c., under the falsely so-called name of Thomson medicine. But as this terrible and fatal influence has declined, the botanical, anti-mineral, and all the individual quack nostrums, are more or less amalgamated, and used considerably at the present time. In the years above mentioned, many planters dismissed their regular physicians, took Thomson's book as their only rule of faith and practice, and performed their own *doctoring*. The amount of constitutional injury, the protracted sufferings endured, and the many deaths consequent upon this course, cannot be estimated. These remarks, perhaps, might appear invidious did you not know the regular science of medicine sustains no injury from this cause, nor its practitioners any pecuniary loss. Perhaps you may be led to inquire the reason why quackery took such sudden hold and exerted such a powerful influence. The reasons to be assigned are these. Previous to the time above mentioned, the community had often suffered and been imposed upon by exorbitant charges, and especially during the sickly and fatal year of 1833. At this time the calomel and lancet practice was in considerable repute, was pursued with energy of purpose by its advocates, and was doing often times serious mischief. The once popular Broussais system of practice was still more unsuccessful. Still there were not a few who were educated in that school, and came into practice, strongly impressed with its superiority over all the other systems which had ever preceded it. Thus amidst disease and death, the abuse of calomel and the lancet, and the entire failure of the Broussais practice as it was used, the public mind was ready to rush from one extreme to another, and adopt any system, however absurd, if it professed to cure disease and relieve them from the evils of the mineral practice, or starvation, cupping and leeching.

The above remarks apply with most force to country practice. There were always some physicians who took middle ground, adopting no particular theory or practice, accommodated themselves to the character of the disease, and were more popular and more successful. The new light thrown upon the nature and seat of fever by pathological research, has effected a great revolution in the treatment of bilious remittent and intermittent fevers, which are the most common of all febrile diseases in this section of country.

It has not been uncommon for individuals to impose themselves upon the credulous public as graduates in medicine, who, in fact, have little or no knowledge of medicine, and perhaps never heard a medical lecture in the whole course of their lives. Such are frequently to be met with, and as no legal restrictions are imposed, and no privileges secured to the scientific and well-educated of the profession, this imposition is not to be wondered at, especially as the fees have been, and still are, a sufficient inducement to make practice desirable. In my next letter I will speak of the fees and character of the patients. C. S. Magoun.

Woodville, Mi., April 15th, 1843.

[To be continued.]

REMARKABLE CASE OF PROTRACTED WATCHFULNESS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—As you desire, for publication, an account of my extraordinary sleeplessness, I make you welcome to what follows :—

During three periods I have been bereft of sleep :—first, in 1833, for six weeks ; again in 1837, for five months ; and, now, these last four years and five months.

Prior to the first period, I never suffered from want of sleep ; although, at times, little sufficed for refreshment. My constitution, naturally sound and vigorous, was, till 40 years of age, sustained by healthy exercise, as a farmer—riding and walking much : indeed, walks of thirty or forty miles a day in no way distressed me. In the year 1819 I was cruelly imprisoned in Canada ("*illegally, unconstitutionally, and without excuse or palliation,*" as the present Legislative Assembly has declared), during eight months ; the last of which, in solitude and stifling heat, undid me ; and, for three years thereafter, I was debilitated ; nor should I ever have regained energy but for a resolution to go to hard labor, which I did for upwards of three months,—breaking stones for the roads in Wiltshire, England, and living on the earnings—sixpence a day ; viz. from September 9 till December 23, 1822, as minutely detailed in Parliamentary Journals.

In the year 1824 I was again confined by British tyranny, in London, three years and eight months ; the purpose being to make me appear to the world insane, and thus have my influence with the people destroyed. I weathered this persecution by living on vegetable food ; and, being free from all excitement, the time passed away happily. During this confinement, I had need of very little sleep ; and the greater part of my time in bed, never more than six hours, was given to reveries, chiefly as to schemes for bettering the condition of the laboring poor, plans for laying out land in the wilderness, and studies for city building, which I contemplated, and still do, to reduce to a science.

It was during this period, I think, that a habit of living without sleep began to form. From March, 1828, till November, 1833, I was tortured, in Scotland, with unsettled affairs ; but, generally in the best health ; and could walk from morn to night without fatigue, while four or five hours of sleep was quite enough for rest and enjoyment.

November 5, 1833, I left Edinburgh at six o'clock, P. M., in a canal-boat, on my way for America—choosing such conveyance that I might be along with my trunks, containing valuable books and papers. The boat was an iron one, and, jarring every little while against some other boat, bridge or lock, subjected me, reclining in a vile hold, to unspeakable discomfort. Sleep was out of the question ; and I had none all the way to Glasgow, which we reached about 10 o'clock next morning. Taking time on shore only for breakfast, I forthwith had my trunks conveyed to a steamboat in the Clyde, and immediately sailed for Greenock. There, getting on board the steamship Vulcan, we were under weigh for Liverpool in half an hour. We ran to sea in the teeth of a hurricane ;

sheltered, during night, in Lamlash bay, and, by earliest dawn, ran through a stormy ocean to Liverpool, which we reached early the second day. These two nights, like the former, were sleepless.

Engaging a passage to New York, in the packet ship Pacific, to sail next morning, I told Captain Wait how I had been deprived of rest. He recommended a warm bath before going to bed, in Liverpool. This procured, I believe, some sleep; but, certainly, from Liverpool to New York, embarking November 9, and landing December 22, I had not a wink of sleep. It was dark when we landed. I resorted to a warm bath, got into a comfortable bed, and slept, as I had done before leaving Edinburgh; nor did I again want sleep, nightly, for three years.

Crossing the Atlantic, my sleeplessness became subject of conversation. One prescribed laudanum, but that had no effect; another opium, which also failed; a third said if I got tipsy, that would do; but that did not. I drank grog, which only made me sick, and that for the first time at sea.

The beginning of January, 1837, while lodged in a tavern at Willoughby, Ohio, I was seized with erysipelas in the leg, a disease I have been long subject to, and during five months was without sleep. After that period sleep returned gradually. For many weeks I dozed by times, and had strange dreams; one of them so distinct and beautiful that I wrote it down, and it was really worthy of record. The attack of erysipelas, conjoined with other diseases, rendered me lame and extremely feeble during the remainder of my stay in Ohio—eighteen months; and, after that, for four years and four months, in Canada, with frequent attacks of erysipelas and rheumatism, I was never strong, and all the time lame: often, indeed, at death's door, in the most wretched condition, separated from my family, and, for the most part, without sympathy or a friend to whom I could unbosom my griefs. The loss of a beloved daughter crowned my calamities, and finally barred out "*Nature's soft nurse.*" My children, four daughters and a son, the youngest now 27 years of age, grew up, every way well; and my great consolation was, that whatever befel me, still my family would be prosperous and happy. Alas! when least expecting a reverse in that quarter, even when glorying over pleasant letters recently received from my daughters, I heard that the second was dangerously ill. I lay in agony two weeks, and then had the melancholy assurance of her death.

> "Tired nature's sweet restorer, *balmy sleep*,
> He, like the world, his ready visit pays,
> Where fortune smiles. The wretched he forsakes;
> Swift, on his downy pinion, flies from woe,
> And lights on lids unsullied with a tear."

After seven months of this period of sleeplessness I consulted Dr. Widmer, of Toronto, reputed the most experienced physician in Upper Canada. He advised to dine early and eat nothing after, before going to bed; which till this day has afforded the most comfort. His medicine —acetate of morphia, which I took at two distinct times, for ten days together—had no effect. Corresponding with the doctor, he expressed an opinion that my sleeplessness proceeded from excitement of the brain,

caused by much reading and writing on politics, which I told him was an entire mistake, as I read and wrote little, and troubled myself not at all with politics. In fact, my troubles spring from unsettled private affairs, as my family and friends well know.

After three years of this sleeplessness, being in Montreal, I advised with Dr. Robinson, but he could do nothing for me. Telling him that few would credit my accounts of sleeplessness, he said he could, having a patient, Mr. Jamieson, who had not slept the last five months.

For a year past I have been attacked with no disease; and within these last six months, spent on the sea board, have been gradually regaining strength—partly, I think, from salt air: nor do I despair of sleeping, were all circumstances favorable. Long weakened with attacks of erysipelas, I am not able to take that degree of exercise which in former days contributed so much to brace my system; neither have I now sufficient stimulus in any way. With these, I feel confident that sleep might be recovered.

Wherever I abide, this sleeplessness has been matter of jest; and few sympathize in my calamity, one of the most trying our nature can be exposed to. Fortunately a native buoyancy of spirit sustains me against every jest, and the world's humors are repelled by my own.

Since coming to this city of "*notions*," where everything is talked about, but nothing decided, I have been beset with inquiries, doubts and denials. Some proposed watching me night and day, so that I might be *caught napping*, and this they were welcomed to do; but did not. I then cast abroad a handbill, offering a *benefit* to any charitable society who might choose to bring together a multitude for wonderment, and thus have a fair trial instituted; but none have come forward; and *doctors*, as they have hitherto *differed*, may differ in opinion still.

Various books on the subject have been laid before me—McNish on the "Philosophy of Sleep," and John Mason Good, M.D., on the "Study of Medicine." The first author, in my humble opinion, is anything but *philosophical*. He amuses with many stories, but comes to no conclusion on the principal subject discussed. He mixes up *absence of mind*, or what should rather be called *intensity of thought*, with sleep, which to me appear distinct things. He speaks of sleeplessness being a "habit" and "habitual;" states that General Pichegru did with "only one hour's sleep a day through a whole year's campaign"—and mentions others, who "remained weeks, months, or even years, *if authors are to be believed*, awake." Now why should he refer us to authors, thus to question their authority after he had settled the point *dictatorially*, in a previous chapter, where he says, sleep "*cannot in any case be entirely dispensed with*;" and, elsewhere, deciding against the entire want of it as "*fabulous*." Who *assured* him of this?

Dr. Good is not thus contradictory. He sets forth views and theories, supporting them with instances of sleeplessness. Mr. Cooch, he says, "gives a singular case of a man who never slept, and yet enjoyed a very good state of health till his death, which happened in the 73d year of his age. He had a kind of dozing for about a quarter of an hour

once a day; but even that was not sound sleep, though it was all he was ever known to take."

Now, Sir, in all this we have yet no *certainty*; and opinion after opinion may be advanced without any good whatever. I say a final issue may be reached, if I, here, in Boston, were subjected to trial; and, for the sake of science,—to have a fact established curious in the history, habits, and constitution of man, I am willing to subject myself to the test.

On various occasions, I have been *almost* asleep, but do not think I have absolutely been so, during these last four years and five months. In September, 1840, I travelled, with only one short pause from St. Catharines, Upper Canada, to New York, in stages, steamboats and rail-cars; talking much and continually excited with varied scenes and occurrences. Arrived at New York, I immediately lay down in a luxurious bed, closed round with musquito curtains; and, next morning, declared to a fellow traveller, that I would be unwilling to *swear* that I had slept none. Nine months afterwards, seated in the door of my log-house in the woods of Canada, during the stillness of a summer evening, and when the air all around was loaded with smoke, I verily believe I would have slept had not a neighbor roused me. Five months later, in Kingston, thinking all my vexations in that quarter ended, and that I should soon rejoin my family in Scotland, I had a delightful night, and told my landlady that I had *nearly* been asleep; and, reaching Quebec a week afterwards, enjoying the same hope, and worn out with travel, I dozed and dreamt, which is certainly an approach to sleep. Six months ago, reaching Providence from New York, surrounded with agreeable objects, and entertained for a whole day in the most delightful manner, I flung myself into bed; and, if Morpheus did not obtain dominion over me, I had at least perfect repose.

These approaches to sleep are acknowledged, not for surrender of what I have maintained invariably; but to confirm the main position. In Ohio, two persons came into my bed-room while my head was covered over, and, because I did not speak to them, said I was asleep; so, here in Boston, while reclining on a sofa with closed eyes. On both these occasions I knew the train of my thoughts perfectly. In another place, the servant who put on my fire in the morning reported that, on two occasions, he had found me asleep. I was confident he had not, and tested the matter another morning, unknown to him. I covered up my head, kept silent, let him question me; and then discovered, that it was only from my being attentive, that his voice was audible through the covering.

Both the doctors above quoted allow that sleep may be dispensed with for long periods; and, if for weeks and months, why not for years and forever? I have not only done without it for years, but for months have simultaneously suffered from acute pain and torture of mind still worse than that. Nor could I have endured but for a cherished principle, that, to endure is duty.

I have tried many remedies:—a hop-pillow, hop-tea, &c. &c. &c. Winter before last, at Kingston, Canada, in great misery from the deprivation, I resorted to laudanum, again and again—fifty drops, seventy

drops, ninety drops, and, upwards of a hundred; yet, still, I had no sleep. Here, in Boston, I have been advised to get Mesmerized; and, if professors of that art are willing to try, they may try. Most surely to succeed I say, let me rest from persecution, because of principles and opinions, which has been unrelenting during thirty-five years: give me my rights as a British subject in Canada, and deeds to land there vexatiously withheld; restore to me property in Britain taken out of my possession under most iniquitous pretences; and let me rejoin my children in such a happy home as I once enjoyed.

All this is now submitted, frankly and sincerely, to your learned and liberal profession. ROB. F. GOURLAY.

Marlboro' Hotel, Boston, May 10, 1843.

SINGULAR CASE OF WORMS.

By J. Taylor Bradford, M.D., of Augusta, Ky.

A CASE of some interest fell under my observation a few days since, the particulars of which I will detail. It occurred in a colored girl, 9 years of age, who had, with the exception of much impaired appetite, been in good health. Being employed with other children, in the ornamenting of a play-house, which was denominated a church, she suddenly sprung up and commenced clapping her hands, and singing in a most vehement manner. As she had been, on former occasions, when thus employed, in the habit of acting somewhat in the same way, she was encouraged by her playmates, and she continued until quite exhausted, when it was found, by her mother, that she could not be made quiet.

When I was called to see her, which was about ten hours after her attack, I found her rolling from one side of the bed to the other in a state of delirium, every few moments uttering a shriek, and throwing up her arms, as if in a state of great alarm. Sometimes, by shaking her, she seemed as if partly aroused, but in attempting to answer questions, she suddenly broke off into an incoherent song, or perturbed moaning. The pulse was very irregular, sometimes an interval between the beats of two or three seconds, and then it would become for a short time very rapid, but soft; skin near the natural temperature; tongue, with a thin, white coat; no unusual heat about the head; bowels undistended, no excess of heat, and bore considerable pressure without any apparent suffering. The upper lip was swollen; the pupil of the eye dilated, while the general expression of it was wild, vacant and restless.

But little satisfactory information could be obtained in regard to her habits a few days previous to her illness, either from her mother, or the family, as her health was good enough not to attract particular attention. As there was no symptom, or set of symptoms, which could be regarded as pathognomonic of any particular disease, I offered the conjecture that she was, probably, suffering more from worms, than from any other cause.

In accordance with this, I directed a decoction of the rad. spigelia, to

be given every two hours in half tea-cupful portions; at the same time I directed three powders, composed of calomel and camphor, to be given every three hours; after which, when necessary, to be worked off by ol. ricini and spirits of turpentine. A blister was applied to the nape of the neck, for there was no unusual heat about the head, and a poultice of garlic to the abdomen.

On the second day, when I visited the patient, I found there had passed some fifty very large lumbricoides. The discharge of these, contrary to my expectation, had produced no abatement of the symptoms. The powders had operated without the use of oil, and as most of the worms voided were alive, the same remedies were continued (spigelia, lessened in quantity) through the second day. On the third day, two more worms were passed, with no amelioration. Equal portions of the tincture of valerian and tincture of opii, were given in teaspoonful portions, every three hours, with directions to discontinue them should the delirium cease, or sleep be produced. No benefit resulted from this prescription. The child died on the fourth day. A *post-mortem* examination was permitted and instituted, when the stomach was found unusually small, and seemed to be divided into two compartments, with a contraction near the middle, extending quite round the stomach. Between the contraction and the pyloric orifice on the posterior face of the stomach, was found a worm *half protruded* through the stomach. On the side of the stomach, extending two inches from the perforation, was a circular furrow in the coats of it, similar to the grooves or furrows made by the arteries on the parietal bone. Upon close examination of the organ immediately around the perforation, which was exsanguine, and of a lighter color than the remaining portion of it, was found a second perforation, which seemed to be very oblique. The stomach contained nothing but a little mucus and gruel, and so small that it would not probably contain as much as half a pint with the greatest distension. It, however, had no appearance of disease, except immediately around the perforation, which, as above stated, was of a little lighter color than any other portion. Upon examining the cavity of the abdomen, two worms were found, which I supposed, finding no other perforation, escaped through the orifice in the stomach. As far as I was able to examine, it did not appear that any of the contents of the stomach had escaped through the orifice. All of the viscera, except the brain, which I did not examine, appeared to be in a state of health.

We are told by a learned annotator and compiler of books, that Cloquet, after an anatomical investigation of the lumbricoides, and that Bremser, a distinguished helminthologist, after the examination of fifteen thousand worms from various countries, arrive at the conclusion that "worms are always free in the intestinal canal, and never adhere to its parietes."

It is further asserted by Andral, Rudolphi and Carswell, that "worms are totally incapable of perforating the intestinal tunics." Frank declares, that "after opening several thousand bodies, he never met with one instance which could be rationally attributed to perforation."

On the contrary, Stokes quotes a case, from Fischer, of a female in whom two circular orifices were found in the colon, communicating with the cavity of the peritoneum; in one of the openings a worm was discovered, one half of which lay in the peritoneal sac, the other in the intestine. Schellhammer relates a case where lumbrici were discharged from an abscess in the inguinal region. German, a case, where one hundred worms were discharged from an abscess in the pubic region communicating with the intestines. Huenerwolf, a case of enteritis with perforation from worms. Hister and Carth, cases of lumbrici found in the cavity of the abdomen, with the intestines perforated."

There are few authors, I believe, if any, that admit worms to be capable of perforating the intestines exempt from inflammation or ulceration; but the present case, neither before nor after death, presented any traces of either.

When we reflect that the existence of worms in the alimentary canal is sometimes capable of producing such a fearful train of maladies as are recorded in the books, and that the lumbricoides are so remarkable for their vigor, and the sharp and pointed appearance of their head and tail, I think it is possible, and fair to presume, at least from the present case, and what I have been able to glean from the authors I have consulted, that worms not only perforate the intestines *independent of inflammation and ulceration*, but that they are in many cases the immediate cause of inflammation and ulceration. But I am levying too heavy a tax upon your patience, and must close.

This is, at present, literally a "wormy region;" amounting almost to an epidemic—many grown persons assume the verminose characteristics of children, and have to be treated accordingly. My "causality" is not sufficiently developed at present, had I leisure to go into the "how created" or "ab ovo" parasites which take up their abode in the intestines, and were I so to do, I might say with justice and truth, what many authors ought to say—"*darkness* is still visible."—*West Med. Recorder.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

MAY 17, 1843.

Perpetual Loss of Sleep.—An article appears in this No. of the Journal, of a singular character: it is, as the reader will perceive, the history of the writer's personal experience in the formation of a most unnatural habit, and his physiological observations upon it. He is not a medical man, and makes no pretensions beyond the ken of common readers. The narrative is written in a pleasant style, and as unexceptionably as could have been desired. It was drawn up at our own request, because the account is one without precedent; and although we are not prepared to vouch for the truth of all his assertions, we consider them, on account of what we have seen and heard of the writer, entitled to the consideration

of medical men. Mr. Gourlay fully expects to be misrepresented, to have his assertions questioned and his veracity impugned; but the facts cannot be altered. To prove that he is perpetually awake, he invites a commission to watch with him, and thus verify the truth of his declarations.

The American Journal of Pharmacy.—After a quiet existence, marked by great usefulness and respectability, this Journal has reached the first No. of the *fifteenth volume*. On looking over its pages, which are exceedingly well executed, typographically, we find the matter evinces the close discrimination and scientific acumen of the editors, Joseph Carson, M.D. and Robert Bridges, M.D., both professors in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. It is neither convenient or at all necessary to particularize the specific excellences of this periodical, in order to command respect or a wider range of sustaining influence. Were its merits more known to active practitioners, it strikes us that its circulation might be quadrupled in the United States—a destiny which we hope is in reserve for it.

It is the great business of a physician to cure maladies, and the instruments of his medical power are the productions of nature and art; but without a knowledge of the articles he is supposed to be qualified to prescribe, how is he to discharge the duties devolving upon him? There is a reprehensible ambition constantly manifesting itself in these days, to talk about the locality of disease, without a sufficiently earnest attempt to cure the patient. This needs a little reformation. Instead of an exclusive attention to thumping every square inch of the thorax, under cover of that cabalistic word *percussion*, which means anything or nothing, according to the intelligence of the percussee—and diving into the chest after death, in search of something to sustain a pathological opinion, as though morbid specimens were greater triumphs than living customers, more devotion to the study of the materia medica and practical pharmacy should be practised. Let those, therefore, who appreciate the value of medicine in the removal of disease—among other requisite means of improvement keep pace with discovery by taking the Journal of Pharmacy.

Homœopathy considered Quackery in Philadelphia.—At a late meeting of the Philadelphia Medical Society, the following rules were reported by a committee appointed to revise the laws of the association:—

"Any member of the Society shall forfeit his membership by any one of the following acts:

"1. Publishing his qualifications, trading in, holding a right in, or advertising, secret or patent medicines or instruments.

"2. Reporting his practice, including surgical operations, in other than medical works.

"3. Publishing in other than medical works, any article reflecting on the profession, or tending directly or indirectly to enhance his own merits, or undervalue those of other practitioners.

"4. Practising or sanctioning any system of quackery or imposture, including what is called homœopathia."

It seems, therefore, that a decided stand is to be taken against this very fashionable system of practice. There are very many physicians

dabbling in the business of homœopathy, not from principle, but for the sole and exclusive purpose of profiting by the credulity of patients. Another order of practitioners pretend to deal in both—allopathy or homœopathy, according to order, or the whims and caprice of their medical patrons. It is pretty certain that this class are ignorant of both, however popular they may happen to be. Boston sustains quite a strong representation of the new school of physicians, who are so well established that it would require something more powerful than anything yet tried to lessen the circle of their influence.

Undeserved Reward.—We cut the following from a newspaper.

"Dr. W. Beach, author of the voluminous medical work, 'The Family Physician, or the American Practice,' has received from Louis Philippe, King of the French, a beautiful gold medallion with a striking likeness of the king and queen, and bearing the following inscription:—*Donné par leurs Majesties au Dr. W. Beach, de New York.* 1842.

"This is the seventh similar royal present the doctor has received—viz.: from the Kings of Saxony, Wurtemberg, Prussia, and the Netherlands, and from William the Fourth and the Grand Duke of Brunswick. The letter transmitting this medal to Dr. B. is couched in highly complimentary language, acknowledging the receipt of the work, through the American Minister, and expressing the thanks of their Majesties, and is signed by Camille Faier, Secretary of the Cabinet, and transmitted through the French Consul-general in N. York. When it is considered that the work has to be examined by the King's medical advisers before it is presented, it is high commendation of the value and importance of Dr. B.'s labors in the field of medical reform."

What has this gentleman accomplished in the domain of medical science, to be honored by the bounty of kings? Nothing. He is neither known to men of science in his own country, or acknowledged by intelligent men in the city of his residence, to have claims of any kind upon the world on the score of superior sagacity or medical attainments. He has simply constructed a book which he calls a new system of medicine, but which is neither novel in its details, or distinguished for originality of thought. Dr. Beach may be highly respectable as a citizen, pay his pew tax, take the Croton water, walk on the Battery with the air of Plato in the Academy, and contemplate his own shadow from the steps of Castle Garden as the greatest reformer of the age—and yet be as profoundly ignorant of the laws of disease as Louis Philippe is of medical merit in the United States. What has this favorite of crowned heads achieved for mankind, that entitles him to the thanks of a parish meeting—much less, the bounty of foreign States? We think, nothing. Is Dr. Beach's system of practice, *the American System?* which implies the abnegation of all other modes of medication. Though his brass in forcing his productions upon the attention of royalty, has been rewarded with gratifying food for vanity, it is no criterion of personal merit. Who, of all the learned physicians in the new world, beloved and respected by the people, would acknowledge Dr. Beach to be anything but an adventurer, if his own writings are all the evidences of his superiority? No one. Finally—who is Dr. W. Beach? Let the Court of St. Cloud answer the question.

Diseases of the Maxillary Sinus.—An able and instructive dissertation on this subject, by Chapin A. Harris, M.D., of Baltimore, has been published by Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia, in a neat octavo, which has more than ordinary claims upon practitioners of dentistry. It should be in the hands of the whole fraternity, as we shall endeavor to show by some future comments upon it. Scientific dentistry takes a higher rank in the United States than in any part of Europe—a fact that should stimulate operators to maintain the reputation they have acquired.

Pereira on Food and Diet.—A new edition will speedily appear, simultaneously at New York and London, under the editorial supervision of Charles A. Lee, M.D., of New York. By the Hibernia, 400 pages, with wood cuts, were received, to which about 200 more will be added. It will unquestionably be a standard work. The author certainly paid a high compliment to Dr. Lee's literary qualifications, in requesting him to edit this forthcoming American edition.

Treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fissure.—Dr. Reid, of London, relates a method which he has lately practised in cases of rupture of the vesico-vaginal wall. A common India-rubber bottle is selected, of pyriform shape, to the neck of which is attached a mount containing a female screw, and at the side a stop-cock. A small condensing syringe, the distal end of which terminates in a male screw, corresponding to the one attached to the bottle, constitutes the other portion of the apparatus. Being well oiled and larded, and the air pressed out, the bottle is folded and carefully passed up the vagina, until the lower end or mount is at the vulva. The condensing syringe is then fixed, and a few strokes of the piston used, until the distension begins to give pain. The stop-cock is then turned, the syringe disengaged, and a napkin applied and fastened to the vulva. The bottle is to be removed for a short time every evening, cleaned, and the vagina syringed. The constant flooding of water, so distressing and offensive in this complaint, is by this means prevented.

Efficacy of Electricity in a case of Poisoning by Laudanum.—Mary Anne Hugdon, aged two months, admitted at eleven, P. M. A dose of laudanum, amounting to twelve drops, had been administered by mistake four hours and a half previously. The medicine produced deep sleep, and, in the space of two hours, convulsive movements of the extremities.

When admitted the infant was quite insensible and motionless. The surface was cold and exsanguine; the impulse of the heart could not be felt; breathing was very difficult, and was performed with intervals of half a minute at least between each respiration; the pupils were very small, and she had lost the power of deglutition. The usual remedies were employed without success, and in a quarter of an hour the child appeared to be dead; but whilst she was being removed she was heard to rattle in her throat, and immediately afterwards breathed deeply. This encouraged us to renew our attempts to restore animation. Our measures were, however, attended with partial success. Respiration at first improved, but soon became again very difficult and irregular, and in an hour's time the condition of the patient was very little better than it was when we first saw her.

My colleague now proposed to try the effect of galvanic shocks passed through the body. An electro-dynamic apparatus was employed; one pole being placed over the upper part of the cervical region of the spinal column, and the other over the cutiform cartilage of the sternum. The greatest benefit resulted almost immediately. Rapid action of the diaphragm followed each application of the poles of the battery; a few short inspirations being drawn, followed by a deep breath. At this time five hours and a half had elapsed since the administration of the laudanum. The remedy was employed during an hour and a half, shocks being passed through the chest, and along the course of the spinal column, whenever the breathing flagged. At first the stimulus appeared to influence the diaphragm alone; but in a short time the arms were extended, and soon afterwards the legs also, whenever the poles were applied to the surface of the body. The child opened her eyes, and seemed to notice surrounding objects: she uttered some cries, and the surface became warm. The head no longer sank on the shoulders, but was supported by the efforts of the patient, and with her lips she clasped the fingers placed in her mouth.

About 3 P. M., eight hours and a half after the laudanum had been taken, respiration became established, though not with regularity, and the further use of electricity was not required; but in half an hour a new train of symptoms set in; the pupils dilated widely, and the child fell into a state of exhaustion, without any of the symptoms of coma: the breathing was performed by sighs; the surface was again cold, and she became quite insensible. From this state it was found impossible to rouse her. However, she lingered till 4 P. M., when she died, quite worn out with her sufferings, twenty-one hours after the administration of the laudanum.—*J. Russell, King's College Hospital, in London Medical Gazette.*

New Haven Co. Medical Society.—At the annual New Haven County meeting of the Connecticut Medical Society, held in New Haven April 13, 1843, Lyman Parker, M.D., was elected *Chairman*, and Pliny A. Jewett, M.D., *Clerk*. Dr. Alvan Talcott read a dissertation on *Pneumonia*, and Dr. B. H. Catlin on the use of *Actæa Racemosa* as a remedy in *Rheumatism*. Drs. Meline C. Leavensworth and V. M. Dow were appointed Dissertators for the next meeting.

Mortality in Philadelphia.—The following table of the deaths which have occurred in that city and liberties, during the years commencing with 1807, and terminating with 1842, is not without interest. The greatest mortality, it will be perceived, was in 1832, the cholera year, when 6699 deaths occurred:—

In 1807, 2045; 1808, 2271; 1809, 2004; 1810, 2036; 1811, 2386; 1812, 1800; 1813, 1632; 1814, 1783; 1815, 2040; 1816, 2319; 1817, 2217; 1818, 2765; 1819, 3124; 1820, 3374; 1821, 3172; 1822, 3591; 1823, 4600; 1824, 4399; 1825, 3812; 1826, 4151; 1827, 3945; 1828, 4292; 1829, 4294; 1830, 4250; 1831, 4939; 1832, 6699; 1833, 4440; 1834, 5073; 1835, 5666; 1836, 5357; 1837, 5202; 1838, 5462; 1839, 5113; 1840, 4949; 1841, 5833; 1842, 5943.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Martin has been re-appointed first Clerk of the Department of State, at Washington, an office he formerly held under

a former administration.—Dr. Meredith Clymer was not long ago elected one of the Physicians of the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, vice Dr. C. W. Pennock, resigned.—A medical school is germinating at St. Charles, Illinois.—An epidemic fever, of a remittent type, is prevailing in Chester County, Penn. It is said to be neither typhus, typhoid nor bilious fever.—Dr. Willard Parker, of New York, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, has been elected an honorary member of the State Medical Society.—Dr. Gilli, of Turin, states that a child, 18 months old, in 1842, voided 510 lumbrici in eight days. Some were six inches long. The child recovered.—A new medical association has been formed in England, called the *Sydenham Society*—for the purpose of re-publishing scarce medical books. Each member pays one guinea a year. Sir Henry Halford is President.—It is rumored that Dr. Liebig will have the chair of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, in the place of Dr. Hope.—M. Andral, says the Medical News, has been elected a member of the Academy of Sciences—receiving 42 out of 55 votes. His competitors were Guerin, Poisenille, Cruveilhier and Bourgery. M. B. did not have a single vote.

ERRATUM.—On page 288, last week's Journal, in list of Fellows of Connecticut Medical Society, for Dr. Daniel Hall read Daniel Holt, M.D.

MARRIED,—In Wethersfield, S. R. Kellogg, M.D., of Erie, Pa., to Mrs. Lucy C. Churchill, daughter of the late Joseph Hale, of Wethersfield.

DIED,—At San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Booker, killed accidentally by a gun in the hand of a drunken soldier.—In Dublin. Dr. Macarty, Professor of Anatomy in Trinity College—distinguished as a physiologist.—Dr. Bullard, known by his experiments on plague in the East, has just died at Dresden, aged 38. The deceased had been known to pass nights and days with plague patients, even when the natives dared not approach them.—At Cleveland, Ohio, Hon. Joshua Mills, M.D., 48.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending May 13, 26.—Males, 18; Females, 8. Stillborn, 2.

Of consumption, 3—dropsy on the brain, 2—measles, 1—old age, 1—scrofula, 1—rheumatic fever, 1—infantile, 2—convulsions, 1—debility, 3—dropsy, 2—pleurisy fever, 1—delirium tremens, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—scarlet fever, 1—inflammation of the heart, 1—paralytic, 1—disease of the heart, 1.

Under 5 years, 8—between 5 and 20 years, 2—between 20 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 6.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Mass. Lat. 42° 15′ 49″. *Elevation* 483 *ft.*

Apr.	Therm.	Barometer.	Wind.	Apr.	Therm.	Barometer.	Wind.
1	from 28 to 36	from 29.22 to 29.30	N E	16	from 46 to 65	from 29.36 to 29.42	N W
2	23 37	29.37 29.45	N	17	42 47	29.33 29.47	N E
3	25 36	29.55 29.60	N W	18	34 40	29.54 29.65	N
4	21 43	29.66 29.71	N W	19	36 48	29.66 29.68	E E
5	30 40	29.46 29.58	N	20	40 56	29.59 29.59	N
6	34 56	29.15 29.19	N	21	41 62	29.45 29.59	N W
7	32 42	29.21 29.29	W	22	46 68	29.54 29.56	S E
8	38 51	28.80 29.14	S W	23	48 52	29.38 29.50	S E
9	38 46	28.80 28.82	N W	24	52 62	29.14 29.18	N W
10	34 40	28.94 29.10	N W	25	54 54	29.25 29.36	N E
11	34 50	29.30 29.28	N W	26	49 63	29.38 29.43	S W
12	41 56	29.42 29.53	N W	27	52 56	28.96 29.19	S W
13	34 62	29.58 29.65	S	28	43 72	29.18 29.26	W
14	38 46	29.64 29.70	N E	29	50 57	29.40 29.53	N E
15	42 64	29.45 29.53	S W	30	41 50	29.44 29.58	S E

April has been a cold month. The first week was good sleighing in this vicinity, and the second in towns north of this. The snow banks were very conspicuous on the 20th. The last week has been favorable for vegetation. The Thermometer has ranged from 21 to 68. Barometer from 28.80 to 29.71. Inches of rain fallen, 4.13.

Diseases of the West.—More than twenty years ago we announced the design of publishing a work on this subject. Of the causes which have delayed its preparation, we shall not speak in detail, and will mention one only. Reflection soon convinced us, that the undertaking was of greater magnitude and difficulty than it first appeared, and could not, indeed, be accomplished without extensive and patient personal observation, particularly in the north and the south, that the *feathering* out of our endemics in those opposite directions might be distinctly ascertained. But excursions for that purpose were impracticable, till the last summer, when, in visiting the shores of the Lakes, we commenced the series of medical travels which have now been resumed. In their prosecution, it is our object, 1st. To acquire a knowledge of the modifications of our climate, from the Lakes to the Gulf, with their influence on the constitutions of the people. 2d. To note the various geological and topographical conditions, which may be supposed, directly or indirectly, to occasion or prevent diseases. 3d. To observe the diet, drinks, occupations, and manners and customs of the inhabitants, as predisposing to, producing, or preventing diseases. 4th. To obtain from medical gentlemen, in all parts of the country, such information concerning the diseases prevalent in their respective localities, as can be drawn from them by personal interviews. 5th. To collect facts for a comparative estimate of the physiology and pathology of the Europo-American, the Indian and the Negro.

Our field of observation extends from Michigan to Florida, and from the western slopes of the Alleghany mountains to Missouri, Arkansas, and Iowa.

Such is the enterprise on which we have entered at an advanced period of life, though with some of the activity and feeling which belong to earlier years. Should we not live, or otherwise fail, to achieve it, we have the satisfaction to believe that our researches may still be of some benefit to the profession, inasmuch as we can scarcely fail to record many valuable facts, which might otherwise be lost, and which by some abler hands may be presented to the public.

In addressing these paragraphs to our readers, and all other medical gentlemen within the extended region we have designated, we are actuated by an earnest desire to secure their co-operation. Without it, failure is inevitable; with it, some degree of success may be regarded as almost certain. Therefore we respectfully solicit their co-operation. We shall devote the months of March and April to Florida, South-Alabama, and the southeast of Mississippi; May to the Delta of the Mississippi; and June to the upper parts of Louisiana, the western portion of Mississippi, and the eastern part of Arkansas; and we take this method to request such of our readers as reside in those States, to prepare for us, in writing, such transcripts of their experience as may be fit materials for our projected work. We would, moreover, extend this request to all who practise medicine in the various States west of the Alleghanies, in the hope that they will at once perceive the necessity of their co-operation, and that they will forward to us, at no distant time, the facts which are requisite to a full history of our most important diseases.—*Dr. Drake, in Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*